



# BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION  
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
(518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: Cynthia Howk DATE: Dec., 1994

133 S. Fitzhugh St.  
YOUR ADDRESS: Rochester, NY 14608 TELEPHONE: 546-7029

ORGANIZATION (if any): The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.

## IDENTIFICATION

Colby-Shearman-Smith House

1. BUILDING NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_  
2. COUNTY: Monroe TOWN/CITY: Greece VILLAGE: ---  
3. STREET LOCATION: 550 Latona Road  
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☐ b. private ☒  
5. PRESENT OWNER: Philip & Edwin Wegman ADDRESS: (same) Rochester, NY 14626  
6. USE: Original: residence/farm Present: offices  
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐  
Interior accessible: Explain professional offices

## DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☐ c. brick ☒ d. board and batten ☐  
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Roof = asphalt shingles. Foundation = not visible  
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐  
(if known) b. wood frame with light members ☐  
c. masonry load bearing walls ☒  
d. metal (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
e. other \_\_\_\_\_  
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☒ b. good ☐ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐  
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☐ b. moved ☒ if so, when? 1968  
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

(see continuation sheet)

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

"This is quite elegant with its original cupola on it. It's really particularly attractive and the little side wing is very nice with the windows around the top. I think this is a straight 'red' - we don't have to worry about justifying that. It's one of the best Italianate houses in the town." P.Malo.

COLOR CODE

Red





14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☒ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐  
d. developers ☐ e. deterioration ☐  
f. other: \_\_\_\_\_
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:  
a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☐  
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐  
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐  
i. landscape features: deciduous & coniferous trees/shrubs  
j. other: contemporary office buildings (in office park  
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary): campus  
a. open land ☒ b. woodland ☐  
c. scattered buildings ☒  
d. densely built-up ☐ e. commercial ☒  
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☐  
h. other: Falls Cemetery across street (to the west)
17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:  
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

(see continuation sheet)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: c. 1852  
ARCHITECT: not determined  
BUILDER: not determined
20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

(see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES: (see continuation sheet)

22. THEME: agricultural: former farm residence.

11c.

House moved about one-half mile from its original location at 1777 Ridge Road West to this site in April, 1968 (due to the construction of the I-390 Expressway). The house was cut into two sections (a 1968 photo shows that the rear wing was detached from 2-1/2-story main section).

The 1959 county map shows the rear (east) wing to be of frame construction. Presently, it is of brick construction (which appears to be historic, as it incorporates stone window sills and lintels on the north elevation).

Contemporary (c. 1970s-90s) additions: one-story northeast enclosed porch (casement windows), one-story northeast wing and two-story southeast wing (wood single cladding), several casement windows on rear wing (north elevation) of original house.

The wood railings on the front entrance and northwest porches are contemporary additions.

The brick front porch steps are a contemporary addition (c. 1968-70s).

The one-story front porch at the northwest corner of the house has been enlarged from its original 19th-century configuration. A c. 1879 photo shows the front of this porch to be flush with the main facade. Today, it extends out about three feet beyond the facade (the square, chamfered columns and pilasters have been retained).

Original long, three-paneled, wood, louvered shutters have been removed from the first-story windows.

Decorative finial removed from the top of the cupola (visible in c. 1879 photo).

The tall, brick chimneys on the north and east wings appear to be 20th-century additions.

The gabled roof on the east wing (rear) of the house appears to have been raised. The exterior brick wall is topped by a wide cornice band of wood shingles (just under the eaves); this wood shingle section appears to be a later (c. 1968-70s?) addition that may have been constructed when this east wing was re-attached to the main block during the 1968 move.

17. This c. 1855 house is located on a 7.63-acre lot on the east side of Latona Road in the southeast quadrant of the town. The house sits well back from the road and is the centerpiece of a 1980s office park campus. The driveway is located to the west of the building, and curves in front of the house (west elevation). Contemporary office buildings are located to the north and south of this house. The site is extensively landscaped with mature deciduous and coniferous trees and shrubs. A large paved parking lot and concrete block retaining wall are located north of the house. The surrounding neighborhood includes the historic, early-19th century Falls Cemetery on the west side of Latona Road (across the street) and the commercial strip development of Ridge Road West to the north.

18. Two-and-one-half-story, hipped-roof, Italianate style brick house with two-story, hipped-roof north and east wings. The house was moved onto a contemporary foundation in 1968 (probably concrete block); the original foundation was two-feet thick and of coursed stone. The main rectangular block is three-bays wide by two-bays deep. There is a stone watertable. Fenestration is symmetrical and features 6/6, double-hung sash with stone sills and lintels. The stone trim appears to be limestone. The second story windows retain their historic, louvered, wood shutters. The hipped roof has wide eaves and is topped a central, square cupola with paired, decorative wood brackets. Two corbelled brick chimneys rise above the south slope of the roof; one brick chimney (missing its corbelled top) rises above the north slope of the roof. The front entrance porch features square, chamfered columns and curved brackets.

Projecting from the north side of the main block is a two-story, hipped-roof brick wing. Fenestration is similar to that of the main block (6/6 windows). The windows retain their original, wood, louvered shutters. A tall chimney of cream-colored brick (20th century addition) is located on the east slope of the roof. A one-story contemporary addition with casement windows is attached to the east elevation of this wing.

Projecting from the east elevation of the main block is a two-story, hipped-roof brick rear wing. The fenestration is asymmetrical with smaller, multi-paned sash; note the stone lintels and sills. The north elevation includes an oculus window and a contemporary brick chimney.

18. continued

Two contemporary, frame, office wings have been added onto the historic house. They are attached at the southeast corner (2-story, gabled wing) and the northeast corner (1-story, gabled wing).

The interior of the house has been described variously as ten, fifteen or nineteen rooms. A 1979 real estate description states "10 rooms, including 5 bedrooms, kitchen with custom-oak cupboards, breakfast room formal dining room, living room with fireplace, library with fireplace, 2-story family room with fireplace, 2 staircases, 3 tiled bathrooms, 2-car garage, circular driveway, tennis courts, greenhouses, storage barn, gunite pool." The interior details include a curved front staircase, marble mantels, and ornate moldings and woodwork.

20. Built c. 1855, the Colby-Shearman-Smith House is architecturally significant as an early Italianate style farmhouse in the town of Greece. It is historically significant for its associations with the Colbys and the Shearmans, prominent farming families in the town.

Although the farmhouse was moved in 1968 and underwent some changes after it was converted into offices in the 1980s, the main block and wings still retain their original Italianate style design. Characteristics of the Italianate style exemplified by the house include cubic massing, a low-pitched, hipped roof with wide, overhanging eaves, a square cupola and porches with chamfered columns. The Italianate style belongs to the picturesque movement in architecture during the second half of the nineteenth century. The style was loosely inspired by the rural architecture of northern Italy. The architectural pattern books of Andrew Jackson Downing of the 1840s and '50s helped to popularize the style.

A c. 1879 photo of this house shows that first-story windows originally had long, three-paneled louvered shutters. The northwest porch was not as deep as it is today (was flush with the main facade). The cupola once had a tall, elaborately-carved, decorative finial with rounded top. The northeast chimney had a corbelled top (now missing) and the front porch decking and steps were wood.

Until 1968, the house was originally located at 1777 Ridge Road West, the south side of Ridge Road, just east of Latona

20. continued

Road. Ridge Road was formerly the shoreline of glacial Lake Iroquois and later a main trail of the Iroquois Indians. In 1813, the State Legislature allocated \$5,000 to cut down brush and to bridge streams along the Ridge from Rochester to Lewiston. This and later improvements along the road opened the way for settlers to establish their homes, farms, and businesses along the Ridge.

The 1852 county map shows the south side of Ridge Road to be sparsely developed east of Cemetery Road (now Latona Road). This house was constructed c. 1855 by Zaccheus Colby, who built it as his family residence. Colby was married twice. In 1872 Colby sold this house to his brother-in-law, Abner Shearman. Colby had been married to Shearman's sisters, Rhoda and, then, Janette, and died a widower.

The 1872 county map shows the original site as lot 87 with "A. Shearman" as owner. Abner Shearman was the son of Adam Shearman, a successful farmer and weaver in Greece and later Brighton (one of his coverlets is preserved at the Rochester Museum and Science Center). Adam also served as justice of the peace.

The 1902 county map shows this house (no outbuildings are shown) and its 68.3-acre parcel as owned by "Abner Shearman Heirs." Abner Shearman had four daughters: Ella, Gertrude, Grace, and Janette. The 1924 county map shows the large 56.45-acre property to be owned by Grace Shearman. It includes a house and two frame outbuildings (there are no additional buildings between the house and Latona Rd. to the west). Paddy Hill Creek cuts through the southeast corner of the property. "Monroe Cemetery" is to the west at the corner of Cemetery Road (now Latona Rd.). The 1930 suburban directory (the first published) lists Mrs. Gertrude (Shearman) Smith and Harry L. Clark here; Clark is listed as a "farmer" at the #1777 Ridge Road West address. Gertrude Smith was one of Abner Shearman's four daughters; her husband was Lawrence Smith.

The 1959 county map shows the house and a large frame building (barn?) to the southeast. An updated map with the proposed "Rochester Outer Loop" expressway (road and ramps) has been glued on top of the Shearman property, covering over the house and barn (clearly in the path of the proposed highway). The fate of the house was undecided for almost ten years, while the exact location of the expressway and exit

20. continued

ramps was being determined. The 47.7-acre property was owned by "Grace Sherman et al" and still retained its open, undeveloped character. There were no buildings between the house and Latona Road to the west.

Mrs. Gertrude Shearman Smith lived in this house until her death in 1965 (she was in her 90's). Mrs. Smith's daughter, Mrs. Paul (Gretchen) Boland also lived in Greece.

In 1968, Miss Susanne Shearman had the house moved from 1777 Ridge Road West about one-quarter mile to its present location, 550 Latona Road. This new site was located on the western part of the Shearman's property. The house was cut into two parts and set on a new foundation atop a knoll not far from the same stream it overlooked on Ridge Road West. The move cost \$75,000, but it was the only way to save the house from demolition (due to the construction of the expressway). There was a contemporary house already on the Latona Rd. site, just to the south of the relocated house (a member of the Shearman family built a modern residence here in the 1960s).

Miss Susanne Shearman died in 1970. The relocated Colby-Shearman-Smith House was then sold to the Bierworth family. Records and newspaper articles are not consistent about Susanne Shearman's relationship to this family. It is not clear whether she was Abner Shearman's daughter or his granddaughter. One source states that she is Gertrude Shearman Smith's sister; another states that she is Mrs. Paul Boland's sister. "Susanne" is not one of the names given for Abner Shearman's four daughters (Ella, Gertrude, Grace, Janette). On the other hand, Mrs. Boland's maiden name was "Smith," so this relationship does not appear accurate (Susanne's last name was "Shearman" and she was unmarried).

In 1979 the property was purchased as the headquarters for Wegman Companies Inc., a firm specializing in real estate and homes for the elderly, headed by Philip Wegman. They added the Colonial-style reproduction light fixtures along the driveway and constructed the additional contemporary office buildings in the early 1980s. All of the buildings are screened from the roadway to create a secluded setting. Landscaping and woods also separate the office buildings from the Colby-Shearman-Smith homestead. Tenants represent a variety of health, financial, and community services.

Town of Greece Historic Sites Survey  
Monroe County, New York  
550 Latona Road  
page 8

20. continued

The history of this building, beginning as a nineteenth-century farmstead, is highly significant to the town of Greece. The Colby-Shearman-Smith House, the Ridgemont Country Club, and 981 Latta Road are the town's best examples of Italianate style architecture.

21. See final report for bibliography.



February 24, 1968

Demo with Chronicle

# Greece Homestead Sidesteps Path of Progress

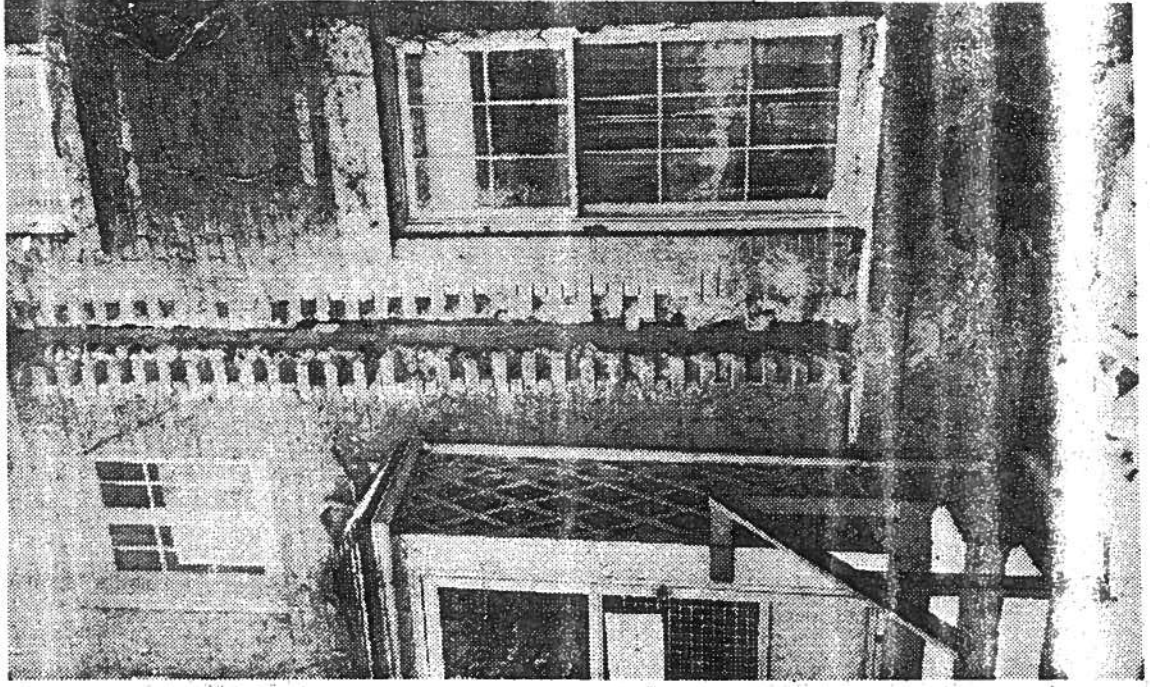


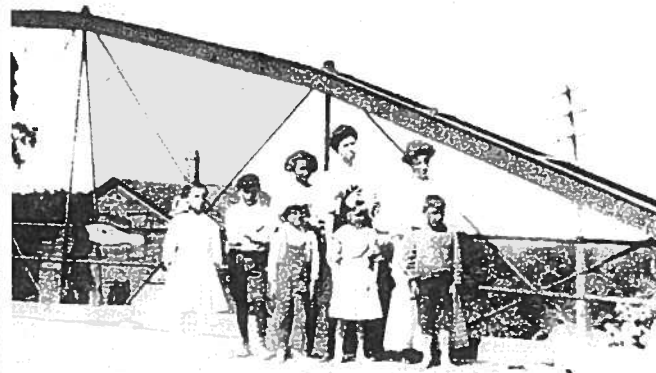
This 113-year-old brick mansion refuses to knuckle under to bulldozer of progress — it's getting out of the way. Its fate was in doubt for 10 years while state planners pondered route of Western Expressway, but now it's doomed.

Owned by Miss Susanne Shearman, the pink Dutch brick, 19-room homestead at 1777 Ridge Rd. W., Greece, will be moved one-quarter mile to Latona Road within three weeks. It's been in Shearman family since Abner Shearman bought it from his brother-in-law, who built it in 1855.

At left, Paul Boland, owner's brother-in-law, points to two-foot thick cellar walls. At right is crack in wall made by movers, who will truck it away in two sections.

With ground and moving platforms, it will weigh 400 tons.





*Edward Cox family in front of today's Streb's Hotel, Henpeck residents on the South Greece Canal bridge, 1907; John and Jennie Leary and Rob Salter on the bridge over Long Pond and the Colby-Shearman-Smith house, about 1879, removed from Ridge Road to 550 Latona Road because of the construction of the 390 Expressway.*



## INDEX

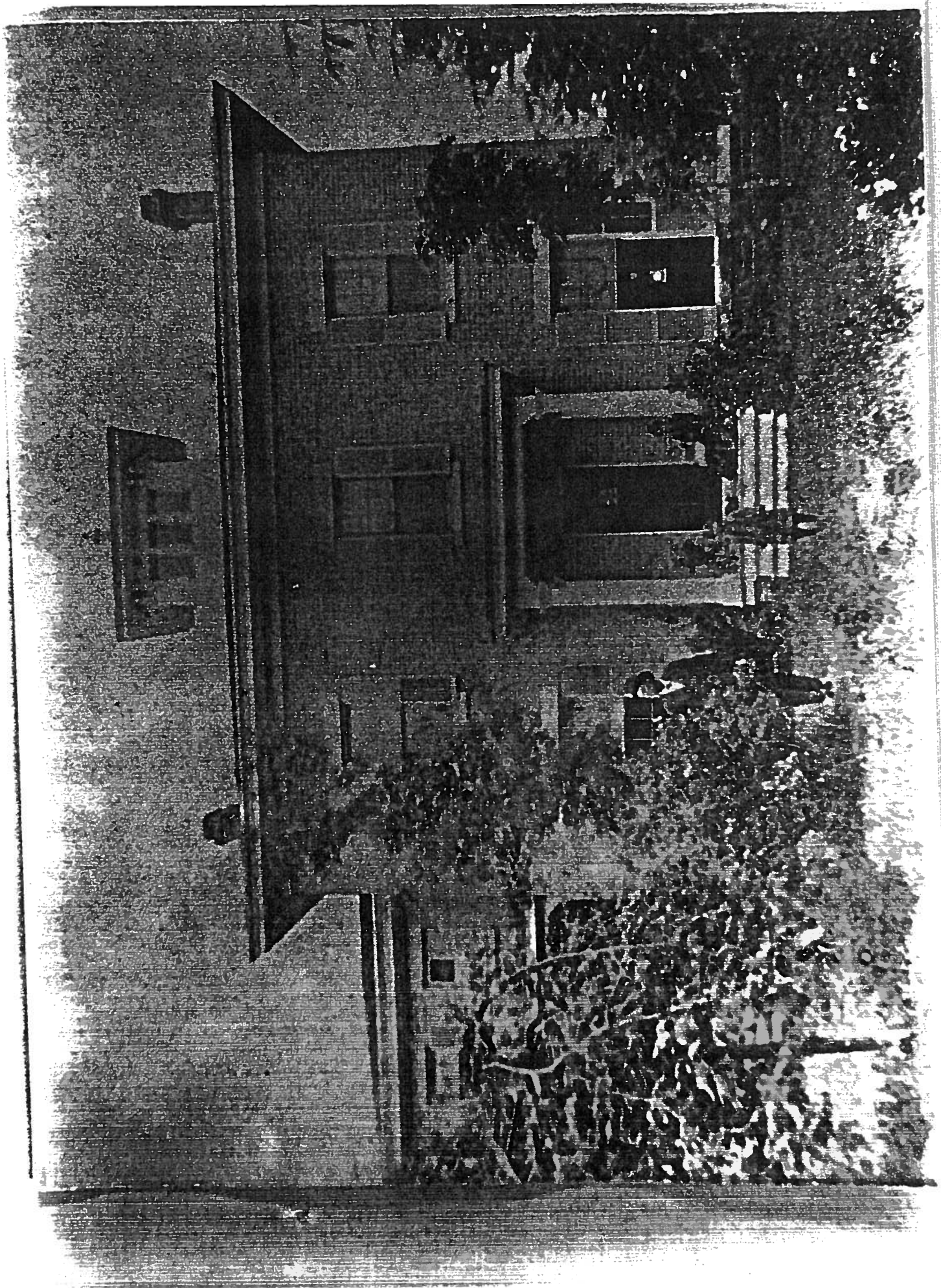
Adams, Dr. William ..... 125, 131  
 Adlum, John ..... 21  
 Aeberli, William ..... 115  
 Allen, Chester ..... 22-3  
 Allen, Ebenezer ..... 20  
 Allen, "Indian" ..... 20, 125  
 Allen's Mill ..... 129  
 Anderson, W. H. .... 53  
 Annin, Joseph ..... 125  
 Anthony, S. E. .... 55, 165  
 Arnold, Lydia ..... 131  
 Atchinson, Col. John ..... 133, 158  
 Atchinson, Dr. Sylvester ..... 3  
 Ayers, Roy ..... 198

Badgerow, George ..... 185  
 Bagley-Hazen (house) ..... 98  
 Bagley, Lucius ..... 167  
 Bagley, Oliver ..... 76  
 Badge, Raymond ..... 189  
 Baker, Albert ..... 198  
 Baker, Constable ..... 35  
 Baker family ..... 196  
 Barnard, Charlie ..... 112  
 Barnard, Edward ..... 198  
 Barnard, Thomas ..... 112  
 Barnard, widow ..... 112  
 Barnes, Capt. .... 189  
 Barton, Agnes Latta ..... 20, 125

Barton, Maj. Benjamin ..... 19, 125  
 Barrett, Benjamin ..... 71  
 Bauer, John ..... 189  
 Beatie, Mary ..... 105  
 Beatie, Nancy ..... 105  
 Beatie, Tom ..... 105  
 Beatie family ..... 103  
 Beebe, Asa ..... 71  
 Biggio, Rev. Fr. .... 105  
 Billings, Mr. .... 42  
 Bingham, Dr. .... 5  
 Blodgett, William ..... 77  
 Blondin ..... 150  
 Bolly, Roger W. .... 185

Bonesteel, Jessie ..... 188  
 Boody, W. A. .... 134  
 Bowers, Al ..... 42  
 Bowers, Loretta ..... 201  
 Brackett, Maj. James ..... 163  
 Braddock, Capt. (pirate) ..... 107  
 Bradley, Dr. Samuel ..... 70-71  
 Britton, Willis ..... 111, 184  
 Brockway, Joseph ..... 137  
 Brown, Capt. Francis ..... 157-159  
 Brown, James ..... 34  
 Brown's farm ..... 134  
 Brule, Etienne ..... 2, 34

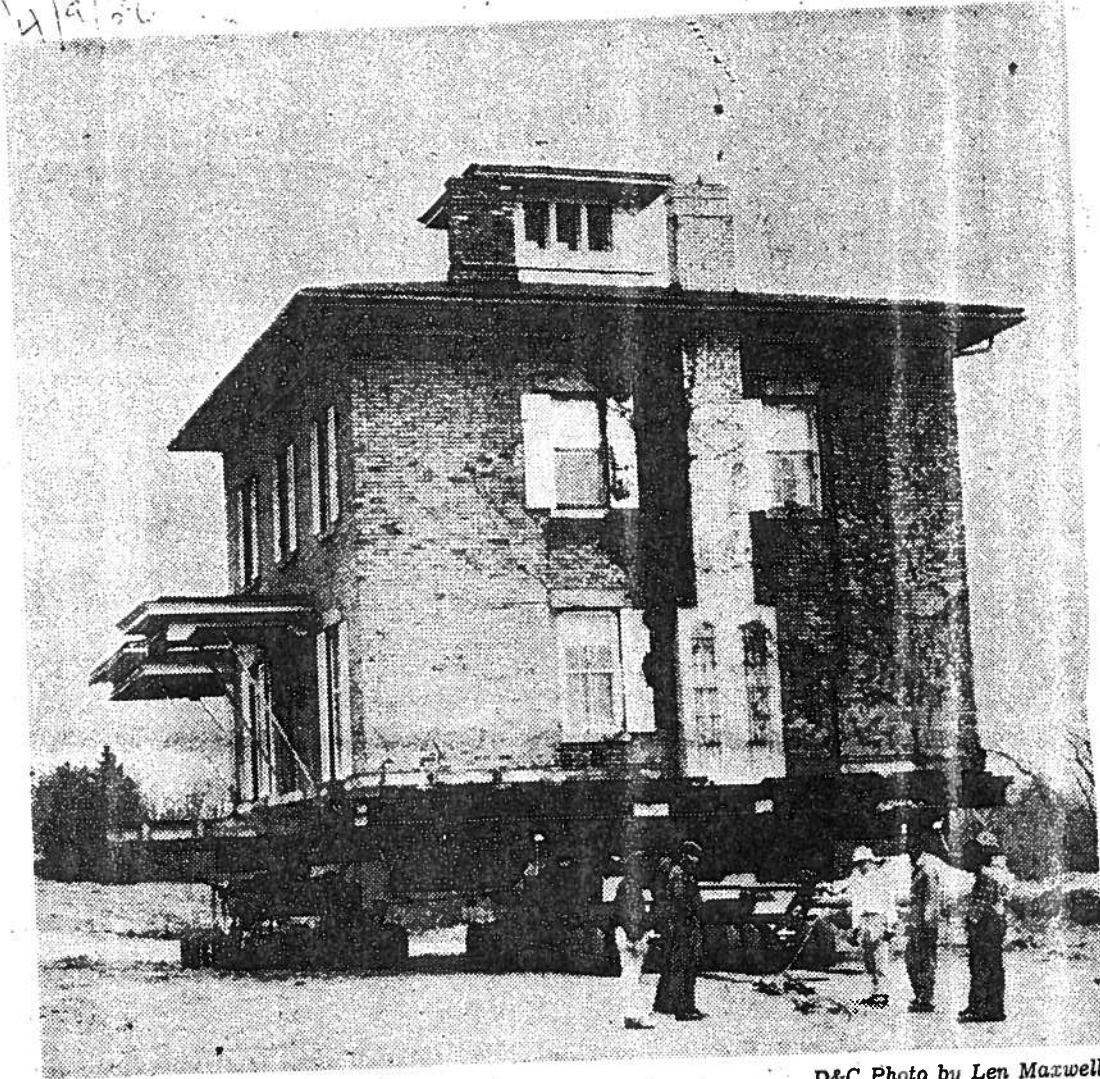






Abner Shearman





D&C Photo by Len Maxwell

**UPROOTED BY PROGRESS.** Nineteen-room brick mansion at 1777 Ridge Rd. W., Greece, was moved yesterday from site it occupied 113 years. Owned by Miss Susanne Shearman, it was moved for construction of 3.2-mile section of Outer Loop. It was wheeled one-quarter mile to Latona Road.



